

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044299 POSS DUPE  
ORIGIN EA-09

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USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-07 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN:BDS  
APPROVED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN  
EA/P - MR. SMITH  
-----011232 082892 /20  
R 282257Z FEB 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY ON ROC NUCLEAR PROGRAM

TODAY'S WIRELESS FILE CARRIES TEXT OF FEBRUARY 27 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT ROC IS DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY AND ASSOCIATED DELIVERY SYSTEMS. DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON POST STORY IS PROVIDED BELOW. SUBJECT DID NOT ARISE AT FEBRUARY 28 PRESS BRIEFING.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE FEBRUARY 27 WASHINGTON POST STORY THAT TAIWAN IS DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY THROUGH RESEARCH ON WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED DELIVERY SYSTEMS?

A: THE ROC IS A PARTY TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT). PREMIER CHIANG ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HAS STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH, THE ROC HAS THE CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP  
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NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IT WILL NOT MANUFACTURE ANY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. THE LEADERS OF THE ROC ARE FULLY AWARE THAT WE EXPECT THE ROC TO ADHERE TO THIS POLICY AND TO DESIST FROM REPROCESSING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.

Q: THE ARTICLE REFERS TO ROC ACTIVITIES IN THE NUCLEAR

FUEL REPROCESSING AREA. CAN YOU CONFIRM THESE TO BE T;E CASE?

A: ROC PREMIER CHIANG HAS STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE ROC WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ANY REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES.

Q: SO FAR YOU HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR QUESTION BY RE-STATING REMARKS OF PREMIER CHIANG. HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT AND THE USG SEE THE SITUATION?

A: AS I HAVE SAID, WE EXPECT THE ROC TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE NPT. AT THE SAME TIME, AN AMERICAN TEAM RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE ROC WHERE THEY REVIEWED TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. THE TEAM'S FINDINGS ARE BEING PREPARED, AND WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** PRESS STORY ON ROC NUCLEAR PROGRAM TODAY'S WIRELESS FILE CARRIES TEXT OF FEBRUARY 27 WASHING- TON POST ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT ROC IS DEVELOPING A  
**TAGS:** MNUC, TW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009